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CASTRO CAPTIVES

LONDON REUTERS IN ENGLISH TO NORTH AMERICA 1753 21 MAY 61 E

(EXCERPTS) HAVANA—SOME 1,300 CAPTIVES FROM LAST MONTH'S AMERICAN INVASION TODAY MET RELATIVES FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE BEING TAKEN PRISONER. MORE THAN 3,000 RELATIVES WERE REUNITED WITH THE PRISONERS, WEARING YELLOW VESTS AND CAMOUFLAGE TROUSERS, AT A NAVAL HOSPITAL THREE MILES EAST OF HERE WHERE THEY ARE BEING HELD. MOST PRISONERS APPEARED TO BE MEN IN THEIR 20'S.

AT LEAST ONE PRISONER HAD NO VISITORS. HE WAS MANUEL ARTIGAS. ARTIGAS TOLD NEWSPAPERS HE WAS "HAPPY THAT OTHER BOYS ARE LIKELY TO SAVE THEMSELVES AND GO FREE UNDER THE TRACTOR EXCHANGE DEAL." "I DON'T CARE IF THEY SAVED ME," ARTIGAS SAID. HE SAID THAT IF HE WERE RELEASED HE WOULD FIRST OF ALL TRY TO FIND OUT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURE OF THE INVASION. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, ARTIGAS SAID: "IF IT WAS THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, IT WASN'T VERY INTELLIGENT."

21 MAY 632P LSW/RH